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Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NEA - MR. ATH N
P - MR. SISCO
S/S -O: A. OTTO
NSC -B.MC FARLANE
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O 011944Z FEB 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 024972

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, JO

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR HUSSEIN ON RABIN'S VISIT

1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO KING HUSSEIN THROUGH RIFAI:

2. I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE HIS MAJESTY, ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT FORD, A REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS HERE IN WASHINGTON WITH RABIN. THESE WERE VERY DIFFICULT DISCUSSIONS, BUT WE BELIEVE WE MAY HAVE MADE SOME LIMITED PROGRESS. THE SECRETARY WILL HAVE AT LEAST ONE FURTHER MEETING WITH RABIN NEXT WEEK IN LOS ANGELES.

3. THE TALKS COVERED THE FULL RANGE OF ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. RABIN CAME TO WASHINGTON WITH A VERY RIGID POSITION, BUT PRESIDENT FORD MADE CLEAR THAT, DESPITE WHATEVER DIFFICULTIES RABIN MAY HAVE
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DOMESTICALLY,-- AND HE HAS SOME GENUINE DIFFICULTIES --

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THE U.S. WILL NOT TOLERATE STAGNATION AND STALEMATE. THE OVERALL NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES REQUIRE THAT THERE BE SOME MOVEMENT. WE IMPRESSED ON RABIN OUR CONVICTION THAT STANDING STILL DURING 1976 IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE. IT WOULD LEAD TO A CONTINUING DETERIORATION IN THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE

EAST, IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A WEAKENING OF THE U.S. ROLE IN THE DIPLOMACY OF THE AREA, AND IT WOULD OPEN THE WAY TO FURTHER SOVIET OPPORTUNITIES.

4. I WANT PARTICULARLY TO LET HIS MAJESTY KNOW WHAT WE NOW INTEND TO DO IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE CONTINUED MOMENTUM IN THE NEGOTIATING PICTURE. AS A RESULT OF THE TALKS WE HAVE HAD WITH RABIN, WE WILL BE DEVELOPING SOME IDEAS OF A PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE CHARACTER TO PURSUE FURTHER WITH THE ISRAELIS IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS WE PROCEED. AFTER THERE HAVE BEEN SOME FURTHER EXCHANGES WITH ISRAEL, WE EXPECT TO HAVE TOM PICKERING RETURN TO WASHINGTON SO THAT HE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO REPORT TO YOUMORE DIRECTLY ABOUT WHERE MATTERS STAND AND HOW WE SEE NEGOTIATIONS PROGRESSING.

5. IN CONVEYING THE FOREGOING MESSAGE TO HIS MAJESTY, MENTION TO HIM ALSO THAT I REGRET ANY MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH MIGHT HAVE ARISEN OUT OF THE RECENT EXCHANGES CONCERNING FINANCING OF HAWK MISSILE SALES. DIFFICULTIES THAT AROSE HERE RESULTED FROM OUR EARNEST EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT WE WERE ABLE TO MEET DELIVERY SCHEDULES THAT WE KNEW WERE IMPORTANT TO HIS MAJESTY. I AM VERY GLAD THAT WE HAVE NOW FOUND A WAY TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA TO WORK OUT THESE INITIAL PAYMENTS.

6. THE SECRETARY SENDS HIS WARM REGARDS TO KING HUSSEIN AND RIFAI. KISSINGER

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To: AMMAN
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